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DIOECESIS DILI

TIMOR TIMUR

Av. Sa da Bandeira 25 - DILI - Tel. 2665

DILI, 5th December 1984

Nomor : 225/UDD/XII/84

Lamp. :

Perihal :

Reverend Father Pierre Toulat
Secretary
de la Commision francaise JUSTICE et PAIX
71,rue Notre Dame des Champs
75006 PARIS

Mon Pére,

Here is my very much delayed a answer to your letter of 15 th March,1984.

All the mail in East Timor is censured. Thus, it takes a lot effort on our part to find suitable means to mail our letters out. With this letter, I wish to express my thnks for the support and solidarity that the French Comission for Justice and Peace has shown to the Catholic Church of East Timor. Your show of friendship makes us feel that the Catholic Church and the People of East Timor are not alone in this dark hour of their history.

Despite all forces against us, we continue to hold and disseminate that only solution to the East Timor conflict is a political and diplomatic one, and this solution should include, above all, the respect for the right of a people for self-determination. We also want that the Pope Jonh Paul's words to the Indonesian Ambassador to the Holy See, namely, respect for the cultural, ethnic and religious identity of the People of East Timor, but put into practice. As long as this is not implemented, there will not be a peaceful solution for East Timor.

Now we are approaching the Christmas season 1984. For us Catholics of East Timor and for many families, we shall celebrate the Birth of the Saviour and the Prince of Peace amidst sorrows and pain, for we still do not live in an atmosphere of harmony and peace.

I take this opportunity to appeal to your good offices to keep on insiting with the French Government to prevent the Indonesian Governement from sending more armed forces into East Timor, and to subjugate a small nation as Timor Oriental.

With sentiment of admiration for your Commission, I remain

Yours sincerely,

+ Carlos Filipe X. Belo

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Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB
Apostolic Administrator of Dili